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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US99/25706 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 2 November 1999 (02.11.99)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 09/184,413 2 November 1998 (02.11.98) US 60/106,708 2 November 1998 (02.11.98) US  <b>(63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Applications</b> US 60/106,708 (CON) Filed on 2 November 1998 (02.11.98) US 09/184,413 (CON) Filed on 2 November 1998 (02.11.98)  <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> BIOMEASURE INCORPORATED [US/US]; 27 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757-3650 (US). <b>(72) Inventor; and</b> <b>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only):</b> IGNATIUS, Francis, X. [IN/US]; 15 Eagle Rock Drive, Milville, MA 01529 (US). <b>(74) Agents:</b> TSAO, Y., Rocky et al.; Fish & Richardson P.C., 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110-2805 (US).			<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

**(54) Title:** LACTONE BEARING ABSORBABLE POLYMERS**(57) Abstract**

The present invention pertains to biodegradable polymers comprising a non-polymerizable lactone, biodegradable compositions comprising the polymer and a therapeutic agent, the use of the compositions for the sustained release of therapeutic agents, wherein the therapeutic agent is reversibly immobilized on the polymer matrix using ionic complexation between the latent carboxylic groups present on the lactone bearing polymer matrix and a cationic group on the therapeutic agent.